



Newsletter Volume 5 – No 21. 2015.

Opening Comment: - The late issue of this edition of our newsletter is sincerely regretted. With computer problems suffered by Cliff and our new committee member Alan Hadley, plus health problems affecting both Cliff and myself – *please see page 4 for my 'write-off' comment* – this is hardly surprising! A new list containing all the members of committee is shown below. *Yours aye,* *Terry.*

Updated List of Committee, etc.

It is recommended that this item of news is kept for future reference!

PRESIDENT. Lt/Cdr David M Scott RN.

VICE PRESIDENT Brien Harrison.

CHAIRMAN. Brien Harrison

VICE CHAIRMAN. Cliff Pell.

SECRETARY. Tony Mendoza.

TREASURER. Andrea Maynard.

COMMITTEE:
Terry Randall.
Frank Hawkes.
Alan K Hadley

Webmaster. Brian Smith

<http://www.hms-ceylon.co.uk/>

Chairman's Chat: - The reunion this year was a great success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. At the AGM all the Officers indicated that they would be willing to continue in office and were voted in 'en bloc' and I thank them all for the hard work they do on our behalf.

John Wyeth, a past chairman and long-standing committee member stood down this year because of ill health. John has worked **very** hard for the Association over many years and once again on your behalf I thank him for all his efforts. Alan Handley volunteered to replace John on the committee and I welcome him on board. **(I do hope your arm is mending Alan)**

Reunion 2016 will be held at Eastbourne, this will be a nice change from the Torquay area and I look forward to meeting you all there. In the meantime, I hope you all have a good summer.

As you will see from his statement (page 4), our newsletter Editor is having to resign; I would on your behalf like to thank him for his many years of hard work for the Association and I personally thank him for the help and friendship he has given me. I wish you well Terry and hope the treatment works well for you,

Regards to you all, Brien.

Secretary's Piece: - After the tragedy of losing most of the folders in my computer, I have Terry to thank for coming to the rescue! Also, my grateful thanks are extended to Andrea for all the help she gave. Both of them worked hard to update and sort the membership files which we took over after the sad loss of Ron. It is regretted that we have lost several members over the past 12 months; some of the names mentioned at the reunion Church Service were not actual members, **but** having received information about them from others, I thought it only proper to include them as Ceylon shipmates in our remembrance book.

I have previously made this request, but will members please let me know – **A S A P** - of the health problems that come to their attention of any other people as well as themselves! So often I am asked how "So & So" is by a shipmate but cannot give an answer, or send a group e-mail to those members online.

We apologise for the lack of a coach-trip on the reunion weekend, but with the cost of a coach coming in at around £250/300 and the White Ensign Club booked out that weekend there was no alternative; sorry folk! Where to go for April 2016 was the big concern?

Most hotels (apart from the Torquay area) are around the £50 per person per night mark. Contact was made with several other hotels, among them the King Charles at Chatham and the Mollington at Chester, only to find the costings of these have risen considerably!

Realising that people perhaps sought, needing a change of 'air', we decided to investigate Eastbourne. Terry, Barbara and I visited and investigated the Congress Hotel; we found it clean, spacious, well laid-out and the menus were quite impressive. I have since then contacted several other hotels in this area, but bearing in mind that I needed to make a fairly quick decision in order to get our preferred dates, I felt obliged to confirm a booking with the Congress Hotel Eastbourne. **(Booking form bottom half of page 3)** I am informed there is ample street parking plus a few spaces at the hotel. At £120pp for a full weekend, this is an attractive price.

Cheers, Cliff

Treasurer's Report: - We thoroughly enjoyed our weekend at Babbacombe, even though we did not win the quiz this time! For those who do not pay their subs by standing order, it is "**that time of year again**". Subs have remained the same at £5 and cheques payable to the Ceylon Association should be sent to The Treasurer **Andrea.**

Crossed the Bar: - (1) David Mills, POME, 50/52. 9th April 2015.

(2). Gerry Vincent, Associate member, from Poole in Dorset. 9th December 2014. Unfortunately due to a hiccup in communication, this sad news bypassed us until the 10th June. Gerry and I were not only old shipmates, but old school pals going back to when we were 11 to 14 years old!

Sick Bay: - (1) Association Secretary, Cliff is at this present time undergoing various hospital tests.

(2). Yours truly, has been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer, with this affecting bones in the lower part of the spine; creating lots of pain and a deal of discomfort.



On Wednesday 3rd June, I was lucky enough to have friends drive me to Portsmouth so that I could perform a most important 'duty'! This was the day that Freddie Darwent - a member of A Turret's crew during the second commission - was to have his ashes scattered off Spithead. As there was insufficient room on the launch used for this occasion – just six family members being allowed - I went to the Round Tower in Old Portsmouth and paid my respects to Fred as he sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour on his final sailing. Indisposed as I was at this time, I was determined to do this for an old oppo.

Congress Hotel – Eastbourne
31 – 41 Carlisle Road, Eastbourne
East Sussex, BN21 4JS.
Tel 01323 732118.

Booking Form
HMS Ceylon Reunion Weekend

Friday 22nd April to Monday 25th April 2015.

3 x Nights – Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£120-00.
2 x Nights – Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£90-00 *

*** Please circle for either - Fri/Sat – or – Sat/Sun.**

1x Night - Dinner, Bed & Breakfast pp	£45-00
Gala Dinner only pp	£14-00

NAME: - _____

Address: - _____

Tel number: - _____ For Confirmation Purposes).

Rooms Req'd (please circle) Single: Double: Twin:

Dietary Needs: -
Special Requests: -

Deposit - £20 pp (Non Refundable).

Cancellation Policy: -
 Cancelled 0 – 28 days of event, %100, unless room is "re-let".

Smoking: - No smoking throughout hotel and near front entrance; allowable in grounds at rear.

Further to my previous remark regarding my health, it is with regret that I have to inform you that I have been diagnosed with Prostate Cancer; this has further affected two areas of bone in my lower spine, which are causing some very unpleasant side issues. On Friday 19th June I commenced the first stage of treatment and although the prognosis is good, I am experiencing some very debilitating conditions.

For some time now - ***and certainly going back to the days when I was quite ill with heart problems*** – I have made it known that the association should be looking to the day when I would no longer be able to carry on the duty of Newsletter Editor, and should therefore investigate alternative arrangements.

Unfortunately, “Plan A” always came across as ***“we will cross that bridge when we come to it!”***

Well Shipmates, we have arrived at “Plan A” juncture and are now faced with the situation of there being no “Plan B”! ***Sadly this means that this newsletter is my very last one!***

Over the many years I have carried out this duty, I have received support from many other ‘Ceylons’, for which I have always been thankful. Having said that, I have not been without my critics, so perhaps now would be the time for one of these to come forward and “take the wheel”?

Because of the aforesaid prognosis, I have every intention of beating this disease, in order to continue enjoying a full and active life.

I also have every intention of attending Reunion 2016 in Eastbourne, where I hope to renew the many friendships made over the years.

Yours aye,

Terry.

Written & Produced by Terry Randall ('50/'52)

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